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Subject: Daily News Digest, Thursday, December 13
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**Please note: All articles are available in the attached PDF.*

**To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email R6Press@epa.gov.*

1 – EPA testing shows air near stump dump 'unhealthy', Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 12/13/18

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/dec/13/epa-testing-shows-air-near-stump-dump-u/?news-arkansas>

The Arkansas Department of Health said Wednesday preliminary results of monitoring near a stump dump fire show air quality in the "unhealthy" category, according to a news release.

2 – Arkansas Department of Health issues health alert regarding Bella Vista stump dump, KHBS, 12/13/18

<https://www.4029tv.com/article/arkansas-department-of-health-issues-health-alert-regarding-bella-vista-stump-dump/25564292>

The Arkansas Department of Health has issued a health alert regarding the Trafalgar Road Fire in Bella Vista. The ADH says today it learned of preliminary results of particulate matter (PM) monitoring conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of air in the half mile radius around the 8000 block of Trafalgar Road in Bella Vista.

3 – EPA: Air around "stump dump" fire unhealthy, KNWA, 12/12/18

<https://www.nwahomepage.com/news/epa-air-around-stump-dump-fire-unhealthy/1656035108>

Air within a half mile radius of the Trafalgar Road fire in Bella Vista, previously referred to as "stump dump," has been found to be unhealthy, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

4 – The Oil Industry's Covert Campaign to Rewrite American Car Emissions Rules, The New York Times, 12/13/18

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/13/climate/cafe-emissions-rollback-oil-industry.html>

When the Trump administration laid out a plan this year that would eventually allow cars to emit more pollution, automakers, the obvious winners from the proposal, balked. The changes, they said, went too far even for them. But it turns out that there was a hidden beneficiary of the plan that was pushing for the changes all along: the nation's oil industry.

5 – Galveston residents weigh in on hurricane levee proposal that some call "a really bad, bad plan", Texas Tribune, 12/12/18

<https://www.texastribune.org/2018/12/12/galveston-weighs-hurricane-levee-proposal-texas-coast-army-corps/>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas General Land Office proposed a massive levee system for the Houston area in late October that would cost as much as \$20 billion. It's part of a larger plan to protect the state's coastline from hurricane storm surge.

6 – State begins coast-wide effort to sustain fisheries hit by wetland erosion, restoration projects, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 12/12/18

<https://www.nola.com/environment/2018/12/state-begins-coast-wide-effort-to-sustain-fisheries-hit-by-wetland-erosion-restoration-projects.html>

State officials have embarked on a coast-wide effort to partner with the commercial and recreational fishing industry to find ways to make fishing more sustainable in the future, even as some state projects aimed at restoring coastal wetlands and land threaten fisheries and fishers.

7 – Wheeler preaches federalism on water, not cars, E&E News, 12/13/18

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060109495>

When EPA announced its overhaul of a major water rule this week, it leaned heavily on the idea that it was promoting states' rights. Critics say that other actions by the Trump administration could reduce states' freedom to address climate change.

8 – EPA advisory panel gets earful at public hearing, E&E News, 12/12/18

<https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2018/12/12/stories/1060109489>

An embattled EPA advisory committee held a public hearing in Washington today, with members getting two broad strains of feedback. The first came from industry representatives who repeatedly questioned whether a draft EPA research roundup overstates the health risks posed by airborne particulates.

9 – LCRA changes tack in Bastrop County groundwater permit request, Austin American-Statesman, 12/12/18

<https://www.statesman.com/news/20181213/lcra-changes-tack-in-bastrop-county-groundwater-permit-request>

The controversy over Bastrop County groundwater pumping was at the center of discussions Wednesday morning between Lower Colorado River Authority executives and the Sunset Advisory Commission.

10 – Lawsuit targets USDA's waiver; it claims 'factory farms' given pass, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 12/13/18

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2018/dec/13/lawsuit-targets-usda-s-waiver-20181213/>

A group from Harrison is among the activists suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture over a 2016 exemption rule that allows "medium-sized" feedlots and poultry farms, which can hold tens of thousands of animals, to sidestep the risk analysis process required of "large" operations.

11 – House Panel Examines Draft Legislation for Ethanol Mandates, Transport Topics, 12/12/18

<https://www.ttnews.com/articles/house-panel-examines-draft-legislation-ethanol-mandates>

With the current session of Congress quickly coming to a close, the top policymaker on environmental issues in the U.S. House made sure new draft legislation on ethanol mandates he co-authored would see the light of day.

12 – 'Our winters are getting sick', E&E News, 12/13/18

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060109497>

Snowpack in the western United States has declined by an area the size of South Carolina. Those are the newest findings in a long string of research documenting dramatic snow losses and shorter snow seasons in America's iconic mountain ranges.

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